

Year 6 Autumn newsletter

As we look back and reflect on our first term we've been struck with how hard the children have worked. Their positive attitudes and resilience have shone through and there are so many things to celebrate. It has been a tremendously busy term, with so many events and activities alongside the usual timetable. We've been especially proud of the growing maturity and responsibility of the children and the way they have acted as role models to the younger pupils in the school.

Maths

In Maths we've done a huge amount of work and practice on our written methods, making sure that our arithmetic skills are both speedy and accurate. We have applied these skills to problem solving, considering a variety of ways to find solutions to tricky and less obvious questions. We have looked over lots of the important vocabulary needed both for end of Year 6 SATS and Year 7 Maths. There has undoubtedly been a great deal of progress in just one term from everyone so well done!

Literacy

Our Literacy work has been linked to our study of Ancient Egypt and also to the book 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. We used these worlds to apply our writing skills to a variety of genres and text types including narratives, persuasion, instructions and discussion texts. In addition, we have focused on our skills in grammar, punctuation and spelling with sessions to ensure the children have a strong grasp of these technical aspects of writing. Our weekly spelling tests have helped to focus on both common patterns and unusual words. Finally, we have worked on comprehension skills, finding and explaining the information found in a text as well as improving the children's abilities in reading between the lines and inference.

Science



In Science we have looked at forces and the way they operate in the world around us. We have considered how gravity works, focusing on the work of Sir Isaac Newton and his discoveries. We have investigated different forces including friction, air resistance and water resistance. We used all our investigation skills to look at a range of surfaces to establish which created most friction. We have worked hard on considering how to set up fair tests and to interpret the results in a scientific way. Our work also included making predictions and thinking how to present our results. Finally, we worked on explaining our ideas through our conclusions and considering how we could improve our experiments next time.

Topic and other subjects

We've packed in lots of topic work this term. In History we found out about Ancient Egypt while our Geography topic was a look at Cambridge. Our Egypt topic has given us lots of opportunities for cross curricular work in Art and Literacy. The children have shown good skills carrying out online research using a range of websites. This has shown how much pupils can achieve as independent learners. It has been interesting learning about the importance of the River Nile, pyramids and mummification. In our Cambridge topic, we created a poster promoting this world famous city as a tourist destination. There is certainly a lot to see and do there!

During Art, we worked hard on our sketching, shading and painting techniques. In addition, the children have designed and painted Egyptian death masks after investigating the famous masks discovered by archaeologists. We then used hieroglyphics as an inspiration for some printing. Meanwhile in DT, we baked our own bread, following a traditional Egyptian recipe. We then evaluated our creations.



In Computing we have been designing 3D objects using computer aided design. We have also considered the way in which search engines like Google create an up to date index of websites to help us find what we need online. We were also lucky enough to create and program our own Lego robots. Meanwhile, we considered ways of staying safe online and making sure we think carefully before we share things with others.

And finally...

Other highlights this term have included visits to Hampton College for a football and netball festival as well as a cross country race. Well done to our footballers, both boys and girls who competed in tournaments this term. Our school football team also achieved wins against Hampton Vale and Hampton Lakes primary schools. All in all, it has been a very active term.

The children have impressed us so much with their hard work in class. They have also shown amazing attitudes with their extra-curricular activities and responsibilities. We have a team of peer mediators, helping other pupils with any playground disputes, sports leaders, librarians and many other roles, supporting the wider school community. Without fail, all of these children have risen to the challenges presented to them in a mature and sensible way. And finally, we would like to wish our children and their families a restful Christmas and a very happy new year!

Mr Milner, Mrs Smith and Miss Shepherd